

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-27 (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) An information retrieval system that retrieves information requested by a client machine from a remote server via a network, the client machine operating a network browser, the system comprising:

an intermediate server coupled to a network, said intermediate server configured to securely connect with the network browser of the client machine via a secure socket layer (SSL) connection, and in response to requests received from the client machine over the SSL connection, form a connection with the remote server to obtain data on behalf of the client machine; and

at least one application plug-in installed on the intermediate server, the application plug-in to alter the data obtained on behalf of the client machine;

wherein the intermediate server returns the altered data to the client machine via the SSL connection as a hyper-text markup language (HTML) document for display by the network browser of the client machine, the intermediate server inserting at least one toolbar into the HTML document before returning the HTML document to the client, the toolbar providing controls to functionality provided by the intermediate server.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the at least one application plug-in is a third party application plug-in.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the at least one application plug-in includes a plurality of application plug-ins operable to alter the data obtained on behalf of the client machine in series.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the intermediary server provides the client machine with a login page through which the intermediary server receives authentication information from the client machine.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein, after a successful login attempt, the intermediary server provides the client machine with a session identifier.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein, after a successful login attempt, the intermediary server provides the client machine with an initial webpage that includes hyperlinks that are initially directed to the intermediary server but that ultimately reference the remote server.

34. (Currently Amended) An intermediary server device comprising:
a web server that receives requests for resources from a client machine via a network, the requests being secure requests that are received via secure socket layer (SSL) connections;
a handler operatively coupled to the web server, the handler receiving the requests for resources, modifying the requests when the requests are intended for remote servers, and forwarding the modified requests for resources to the remote servers; and
a parser operatively coupled to the handler, the parser receiving the resources supplied by the remote servers in response to the modified requests and altering the resources to include at least one toolbar that provides controls to functionality provided by the web server;

wherein the web server returns the altered resources to the client machine via the SSL connections as hyper-text markup language (HTML) documents for display by a browser on the client machine.

35. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 34, wherein the server device further includes:

an application plug-in framework through which at least one application plug-in is registered, the at least one application plug-in being used to alter the resources by the parser.

36. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 35, wherein the at least one application plug-in includes a third-party application plug-in.

37. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 35, wherein the at least one application plug-in includes a plurality of application plug-ins operable to alter the resources by the parser in a serial manner.

38. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 34, wherein the web server provides the client machine with a login page through which the web server receives authentication information from the client machine.

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein, after a successful login attempt, the web server provides the client machine with a session identifier.

40. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein, after a successful login attempt, the intermediary server device provides the client machine with an initial webpage that

includes hyperlinks that are initially directed to the web server but that ultimately reference the remote server.